

Interim Protocols for Environmental Water Account Operations during 2001

The following are interim protocols for operating the Environmental Water Account in 2001. These protocols, which provide clarification of specific EWA Operating Principles, may be modified or added to during the course of the year. Modifications to the protocols will be developed under the direction of the Water Operations Management Team; final approval of changes rests with the WOMT.

OPERATION OF THE DELTA CROSS CHANNEL GATES DURING JANUARY 2001

□ Article II. Section 2.b.v. Cross Channel Gate Closure

Delta Cross Channel Gates will be operated pursuant Article II. Section 2.b.v of the Operating Principles. This section states, "Impacts on project deliveries of any closure of the Delta Cross Channel Gates pursuant to State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Decision D-1641 or any future decision implementing those objectives in the SWRCB's 1995 Water Quality Control Plan allowing for discretionary Gate closure for fishery purposes shall be attributed to the Regulatory Baseline. Recognizing potential conflicts that may arise during dry conditions, the Project Agencies and the Management Agencies will ensure full consideration of all appropriate factors required for a decision based on the then-available best scientific data and evaluation, particularly including water supply, water quality, and endangered species as wells as tradeoffs. The EWA shall compensate the Projects pursuant to these principles when the Management Agencies advise Reclamation to close the Gates for a time outside such regulatory baseline conditions and such closure leads to export reductions." The WOMT process will be used through its decision making process to ensure the full consideration of all appropriate factors identified above.

CONVEYANCE

□ Article III. Section 1.b.i. Sharing of b(2) and ERP water pumped by the SWP.

This section states that the SWP will share equally with the EWA any b(2) or ERP water that is pumped by the SWP which exceeds the export capacity of the CVP Tracy Pumping Plant. The Department agrees that one half of such water pumped by the SWP will be credited to the EWA and either (1) pumped into the SWP share of San Luis Reservoir or (2) convey to a storage facility elsewhere in the San Joaquin Valley. This sharing occurs when:

1. The Delta is in balanced conditions. Balanced conditions are declared through mutual agreement between DWR and Reclamation and are based on conditions when releases from upstream reservoirs plus unregulated flow approximately equal the water supply needed to meet Sacramento Valley in-basin uses, plus CVP and SWP exports..

2. The COA accounting is suspended due to the inability of the CVP to export its share of storage withdrawals and unstored water for export. This imbalance must be caused in part by b(2) or ERP upstream releases.

❑ **Article II. Section 2.d.i. Use of Excess Capacity**

The term “project operational requirements and contract commitments” include (1) pumping water from the Delta by one project and placing the water into the other project’s share of San Luis Reservoir, and (2) the movement of Level 4 water during balanced conditions at CVP facilities (this applies to the CVP only). The baseline operation of the Projects allows for each to encroach into the other’s share of San Luis Reservoir. This is permissible as long as it does not result in the “spill” of EWA water that is being stored in San Luis Reservoir.

❑ **Article III. Section 1.b.ii. Joint Point: SWP Wheeling of CVP and EWA water**

The principles contained in this section regarding the split between the CVP and EWA for use of JPOD at Banks also applies to use of JPOD at the Tracy.

The following table summarizes when the EWA may have access to Delta conveyance facilities.

Conveyance	D-1641 JPOD	CVP	SWP
Can the EWA use facilities to move upstream water through April 14 under balanced conditions?	Yes	No ¹	Yes
Can the EWA pump surplus flows at CVP/SWP facilities excess conditions?	Yes	Yes	Yes

❑ **Article III. Section 1.b.iv.(B). Relaxation of the Export/Inflow Ratio**

This section adequately addresses flexing the E/I ratio for the EWA.

❑ **Article III. Section 1.b.iv.(A). Relaxation of the Section 10 Constraint.**

Can Level 4 use the 500 cfs capacity if not needed by EWA? The answer is no. Current environmental documentation does not include this use; thus, additional NEQA/CEQA documentation would be required.

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Permission has been obtained from the Corps to increase the base diversion rate by the equivalent of 500 cfs to 7,180 cfs for the months of July, August, and September, through 2002. The purpose of this is to increase diversions into CCF for use by the SWP to recover export reductions made due to the

¹ Environmental documents for the current contracts to purchase upstream water for the EWA do not allow for pumping using CVP water rights.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) or other actions taken to benefit fishery resources. This 500 cfs will be dedicated in its entirety to pumping for the EWA.

STORAGE

□ **Article II. Section 2.e.i. Priority of EWA to Project Storage**

The priority for storage space in San Luis Reservoir is as follows:

- SWP (from lowest to highest priority)
CVP encroachment, State Water Project contractor non-contractor water when SWP has allocated 100% of requested amount, and Third Party water

- ✓ EWA
- ✓ SWP contractor non-contractor water when SWP has not allocated 100% of requested amount
- ✓
- ✓ SWP project water

- CVP (from lowest to highest priority)
 - ✓ SWP encroachment and non-CVP water
 - ✓ EWA
 - ✓ Cross Valley Canal
 - ✓ Rescheduled Water²
 - ✓ Refuge Level IV
 - ✓ Project Water

The second paragraph of this section addresses the issue of the SWP using the CVP share of San Luis Reservoir, but is silent on the CVP using the SWP share of storage. For 2001, the opposite is likely to occur; such a condition was not considered to have a high degree of probability of occurrence; thus, it was not addressed explicitly within the Operating Principles. However, after discussing the issue, the PAs concur with the MAs that the intent of this paragraph is to apply the same rules to the CVP as to the SWP. The following provides additional clarification on the priorities of EWA storage in San Luis Reservoir.

- The CVP can encroach into the SWP share of San Luis to the extent that such encroachment does not (1) impact the SWP operations or (2) cause the EWA to be spilled out of the SWP share of San Luis. This rule applies to (1) the 72 TAF of water that Reclamation is holding in San Luis Reservoir for the EWA and (2) any water subsequently stored by the Projects for the EWA.

² The order of Rescheduled water and refuge level IV is contingent upon final approval of the 2001 reschedule guidelines.

- The same rule applies for the SWP use of the CVP share of San Luis Reservoir.

An issue that has not been adequately addressed in this section, or any other section within the Operating Principles, is the priority for moving water from San Luis Reservoir to avoid or minimize spilling EWA assets. The concern is that EWA water may be forced out of San Luis because the Projects are capable of filling the reservoir, that the EWA has a place to store the water (i.e. groundwater storage in Kern County), but will not have any way of conveying the water to the new storage location. To ensure this does not occur, DWR will provide 600 cfs of conveyance capacity, or more if available, to move EWA water from San Luis Reservoir to other storage facilities in the San Joaquin Valley through April 30. However, if an unexpected conveyance outage occurs that limits the amount of water that can be conveyed to meet SWP and EWA requirements, the capacity made available to the EWA would be prorated as:

$$EWA_{\text{pumping}} = (\text{ACC}) * (EWA_{\text{rp}}) / (\text{TRP})$$

Where:

- ✓ ACC is the available conveyance capacity along the California Aqueduct.
- ✓ EWA_{rp} is the amount of pumping requested for moving EWA water.
- ✓ TRP is the total amount of pumping desired to meet both SWP and EWA needs.

BORROWING

The same principles that apply to the EWA borrowing Project water apply to the Project Agencies borrowing EWA water. Criteria for borrowing and payback will be provided in specific proposal submitted by the PAs when they desire to borrow water from the EWA or MAs when they desire to borrow water from the Projects. Proposal are to include (1) the quantity of water to be borrowed, (2) the term of the loan, and (3) specific criteria for repaying the water to the lender.

ACQUIRING ENERGY FOR THE EWA

The Department of Water Resources will act as the Scheduling Coordinator for the EWA. Therefore, DWR will acquire energy for pumping of EWA at both the CVP and SWP facilities. To the extent possible, identifiable blocks of EWA water stored by one project (CVP or SWP), exchanged to the other project (CVP or SWP), shall be exchanged at a location designated by the exchanging project at a mutually agreed upon rate and time providing that the exchange does not adversely affect the party receiving the water.